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THE DRVN ELECTS THEIR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

THE National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam held its 5th session on September 23, 1969 in Hanoi, according to VNA.

All the deputies working in the central services, in the various localities, and from abroad, attended the session.

The National Assembly unanimously invited the following personalities, now on a visit to the North, to take part in the Presidium of the session:

— Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation;

— Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces;

Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation;

— Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and

— Nguyen Phu Soai, Acting Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN.

On behalf of the National Assembly, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee Truong Chinh delivered a speech expressing regret for and gratitude to the great President Ho Chi Minh. After recalling the great contributions of President Ho Chi Minh to the Viet Nam revolution and the world revolution, Truong Chinh spoke of the strengthening and consolidation of the people's democratic power, a problem for which the late President Ho Chi Minh, the founder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, had shown great concern.

In a solemn and moving atmosphere, all the deputies observed a minute of silent respect in memory of President Ho Chi Minh.

At the plenary session in the afternoon, the Presidium of the session announced that all the groups of deputies and the Presidium of the session had unanimously nominated Ton Duc Thang, Acting-President of the DRVN, as candidate for the Presidency of the DRVN Nguyen Luong Bang had been unanimously nominated as candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the DRVN in replacement of Ton Duc Thang.

The election was conducted by secret ballot. The result was that the deputies unanimously elected:

— **Ton Duc Thang** as President of the DRVN; and

— **Nguyen Luong Bang** as Vice-President of the DRVN.

In an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and confidence, Truong Chinh, on behalf of the National Assembly, warmly greeted the new President and Vice-President of the DRVN. The delegation of the Hanoi population came to greet the newly elected highest leaders of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ton Duc Thang thanked the National Assembly for its confidence in him and pledged to strictly abide by the teachings of the late President Ho Chi Minh, to wholeheartedly serve the Fatherland, the people and the revolution.

editorial

We are resolved to fight US aggression until total victory

ON September 23, twenty-four years ago, the people of Nam Bo rose up, all to a man, with, as their only weapons, their univ and ardent patriotism, and "determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their newly-won independence and liberty." (1)

The salvos which announced this war of esistance has taken on a tremendous significance in our people's history of resistance against foreign invasion. The South Vietnamese thus eloquently substantiated an immutable truth: "Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation." They also unmistakably showned our nation's iron determination, namely that "we would rather make any sacrifice than lose our independence and be slaves" (2). The Nam Bo resistance was a splendid manifestation of our traditional undauntedness, the indomitable spirit which lay at the root of the Nam Ky (1940) and Ba To (1945) uprisings and the August general insurrection (1945). It was the clarion which heralded a most glorious period in the history of our people's protracted combat against foreign invasion.

Ever since, the South Vietnamese people have been fighting without respite, have gone through countless sacrifices and trials, and furthered our sacred revolutionary cause. By waging a nine-year war of self-defence they made

(Continued on page 9)

Take good aim !

Can the US leopard change his spots?

"SINCE I took office as President, no single question has occupied so much of my time and energy as the search for an end to the war in Viet Nam — an end fair to the people of South Viet Nam, fair to the people of North Viet Nam, and fair to those others who would be affected by the outcome". Such has been the latest Nixon peace protestation, uttered on September 18, 1969, at the 24th United Nations General Assembly. Two days earlier, in his announcement of the withdrawal of another 35,000 US troops, the US President had also asserted that "my administration has made major efforts to bring an end to the war" and piously concluded that "the time has come to end this war." This has been an old tune from the time of the White House race to his inauguration and all through the last 8 months of his administration. The ringing of the changes has been coupled with other propaganda ploys to induce the public to believe that the US "has gone far in opening the door to negotiations which would bring peace". But over the last 8 months the Vietnamese people as well as the world's peoples have been able to collect enough facts to show that Mr Nixon is more of a past master in peace jaw than in peace search.

In his announcement of a second pull-out, he stated, "the withdrawal of 60,000 troops is a significant step." But the very figure quoted is far from being reliable. "The White House," wrote AFP, "again indulged in juggling with numbers, to the perplexity of everyone." But even assuming that the figure given is accurate, its significance is doubtful in view of the total build-up and of the delay — nearly half a year — needed for the phase-out. Added to this, one should also bear in mind that the moves have been taken under the impact of stinging blows delivered by the South Viet Nam people and armed forces and under the pressure of mounting universal opposition and insistent demand for US withdrawal. As the aggressor whose hands will rather the multitudinous seas incarnadine, the US administration has only one decent and reasonable course left, that is to comply with the desire of the world's peoples. The trickling draw-off's have been aptly termed by Senator Edward Kennedy as "token troop withdrawals" and by Senator Birch Bayh as "window dressing". In point of fact, they are just drops in the "gulf of five years of war", and will not help the efforts to find a settlement to the South Viet Nam issue and an end to the US aggressive move a single step forward. On the other hand, as the New York Times put it, "the more significant figure is not the 60,000 Americans who are to be withdrawn from Viet Nam but the 484,000 who will still be in the field a year after Mr. Nixon was elected on a promise to bring the war to a speedy conclusion." Yes, what is more significant is the fact that the remaining 424,000 GIs assisted by more than half a million puppet troops and hordes of satellite soldiers continue to drag South Viet Nam through fire and sword, supported by stepped-up B52 bombings and toxic chemical sprayings. What is more significant is the fact that in the occupied towns and cities, repression is intensified against those who are for independence, neutrality and peace. What is more significant is that not only is the atrocious war being pursued but also escalated to the highest ever level of cruelty and that the Vietnamese people's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity are more seriously than ever being challenged.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has proposed in its ten-point peace plan a simple, sound and reasonable solution to the conflict between the Vietnamese people and the US imperialists: Complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. As for the question of "Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam, a matter of the Vietnamese parties' concern alone, it will be settled by the Vietnamese parties concerned". Such an offer which pays due regard to the legitimate wish of the American and world's peoples is the cornerstone of a sensible arrangement. The absence so far of a serious US response to it, the repatriation by driblets of US troops, US pressing its "mutual withdrawal" claim only betray US intention to drag out its military occupation of South Viet Nam, to keep the US expeditionary forces there and to prolong its aggressive war. Senator E. Kennedy himself holds that "token troop withdrawals only lead to a prolongation of the war".

In the face of Nixon's repeated professions of respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, in the face of Nguyen Van Thieu's concrete political settlement" through "free elections", a move clearly masterminded by the US, in the face of the US President's declarations to the United Nations General Assembly, he has, all through his 8 months in office, simply left no stone unturned to furbish up and put a "legal" and "constitutional" face on a regime, abhorred by the South Vietnamese and the peoples of the world and forced by the US on South Viet Nam.

That the Thieu Ky regime is a willing tool of the US is as plain as a pikestaff. If US political circles refer to it as a gang of "tinborn dictators", Nguyen Cao Ky himself has admitted that they are only a "group of slaves". No more convincing proof is needed to dispose of their "legal" and "constitutional" facade and to show that US professed preparedness to "accept any political outcome which is arrived at through free elections" is mere lip service. As for "free elections" after the laying down of arms by the South Vietnamese people, under control of the Thieu-Ky dictatorship and under duress from over a million US-puppet troops, they cannot possibly be "free". What a strange way for the US accept a "freely chosen regime" of the South Viet Nam people as Mr Nixon has undertaken to?

No doubt Mr Nixon's deeds hardly match his words. They simply fly in the face of the formation of a coalition government in South Viet Nam and its people's right to self-determination.

The NFL and the South Viet Nam Republic Provisional Revolutionary Government position regarding the latter point has been made unequivocally clear in its 10-point solution: the South Vietnamese people will choose a political regime of their own through free elections. Pending these, an interim coalition government will be appointed and include representatives of all political forces, social segments and those who have taken up residence abroad and who favour independence, peace and neutrality. It will manage state affairs, implement all agreements which will have been signed on the total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and prepare for genuinely free and democratic elections. Without the presence of foreign troops — the US and its allies' soldiery — such elections are perfectly conceivable and feasible. And it is fair that a widely representative national coalition government should be entrusted with their preparation, to the satisfaction of the legitimate aspiration of the American people and with due respect for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

A careful consideration of US position regarding the two above crucial questions and of US deeds and words leads to an inescapable conclusion: far from agreeing to a political settlement which respects the Vietnamese people's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the Nixon administration is standing to its aggressive guns, prosecuting its aggressive war, trying to prolong its military presence in South Viet Nam, and holding on to the Thieu-Ky regime, as an instrument to impose its neo-colonialism there and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam.

What the South Vietnamese want is only the rights to which any nation is entitled: independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. What they are pressing for is just the legitimate claim of a people victim of a foreign aggression: complete and unconditional withdrawal of the US aggressor forces. What they are proposing is merely a reasonable step to ensure the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination: an interim coalition government to prepare for a genuinely free election. They will oppose with determination all schemes and manoeuvres and attempts to thwart their wish, to ignore their claim, and to slight their proposal. As has been stated in the South Viet Nam Republic Provisional Revolutionary Government September 20, 1969 declaration: "The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace but it must be a peace in independence and liberty. If the Nixon admistration continues to strive after the illusory position of strength on the battlefield and at the conference table and obdurately prolongs the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, it cannot escape still heavier failures".

There is not a shred of doubt about the lawfulness of the South Vietnamese people's resistance, about the reasonableness and seriousness of the position and attitude of the NFL and the South Viet Nam Republic PRG and about the soundness and conformity with reason and sentiment of the Front's 10-point programme. If the Nixon administration refuses to listen to reason and persists in its present aggressive and neo-colonialist stance, there is no other choice for the South Vietnamese people and armed forces than to fight to a finish.

THIEN LY

SVNR PRG STATEMENT ON

Nixon's obdurate stand

Following is the full text of the statement issued on September 21 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam denouncing the stubborn position and crafty attitude of the Nixon administration in the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem:

SINCE he took office, US President Nixon has unceasingly stepped up its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, scheming to prolong the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, and kept clinging to the rotten puppet administration in an attempt to continue the US domination of South Viet Nam through neo-colonialism and perpetuate the division of Viet Nam. By extremely brutal acts of war, the Nixon administration has piled up heinous crimes against the South Vietnamese people, and has also repeatedly encroached upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

At the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US has sought every way and means to distort the truth, attempting to conceal the US aggressive nature and the traitorous features of the Saigon puppet administration. It has stubbornly adhered to absurd demands which completely run counter to the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, asking for "mutual troop withdrawal" which is, in essence, to put on a par the aggressor and the victim of aggression, deny to the Vietnamese people their sacred right of self-defence and ask the latter to pay a price for the cessation of the US aggression and the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

The US has also persisted in its demand that the Vietnamese people lay down their arms and submit themselves to the traitorous and bellicose puppet administration rigged up by the US. It opposes the establishment of a provisional coalition government in the spirit of national concord, which would broadly represent all the forces standing for peace, independence and neutrality in South Viet Nam, in order to proceed toward free general elections, and the realisation of the genuine right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people.

In the face of the legitimate and vigorous demands of the Vietnamese people, the American people and all other peoples in the world that the US stop the war and quickly bring home all American troops, the Nixon administration has played the trick of pulling out 25,000 US troops from South Viet Nam. Recently, US President Nixon again announced the withdrawal of additional American troops from South Viet Nam, describing this before the UN General Assembly as a peace initiative on the part of the US then urged public opinion to get the Vietnamese people to respond to it.

The Vietnamese people, like public opinion in the US and the world, have pointed out that the pullout by the US of 25,000, 35,000, and even more troops is merely a perfidious piece of deception aimed at appeasing public opinion, covering up its scheme to prolong the war and prolong the US military occupation of South Viet Nam. Since the US has brought over half a million expeditionary troops to carry out aggression against South Viet Nam, trampling upon the independence and sovereignty of the Vietnamese people, it must end its aggression, withdraw quickly and completely this aggressor army from South Viet Nam. The arrogant demand by the US government that the Vietnamese people respond to its trick of troops withdrawal in dribblets shows all the more clearly that the US still clings to its obstinate position for "reciprocity", and still poses conditions for ending its aggression. US President Nixon pretends that he respects the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination, while in fact he is scheming to maintain the puppet administration, opposing the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and urging them to surrender and accept the rule of the clique of traitors.

Due to the stubborn aggresive attitude of the US, the war in South Viet Nam is going on intensively and the Paris conference cannot make progress.

With its desire to reach a political solution to restore peace in South Viet Nam on the basis of guaranteeing the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has put forward a very correct, fair and reasonable 10-point overall solution which has been warmly welcomed by the people throughout Viet Nam and the public all over the world.

Immediately after coming into existence, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR took that solution as the basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. At the same time, the National Front for Liberation and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government have always carefully considered the proposals of the US with regard to a solution. However thus far, these proposals have only reflected the obdurate aggressive stand of the US.

If the US really wants to peacefully settle the South Viet Nam question and end the war in a honourable way, it must seriously respond to the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the rovisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, promptly withdraw all US troops and troops of the other foreign countries of the US camp from South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever. It must give up its scheme of maintaining the stooge administration and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference.

The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace but it must be a peace in independence and liberty. If the Nixon administration persists in its illusion of securing a position of strength on the battlefield and at the conference table and obdurately prolong the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, it cannot escape still heavier failures.

Acting upon the sacred testament and noble will of President HO CHI MINH, the great leader of the entire Vietnamese nation, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, millions as one man, fearing no sacrifices and hardships, are determined to step up the war of esistance till complete victory, so as to achieve an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam advancing toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, contributing to the defence of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam sincerely thank the socialist countries and all friends in the five continents for their sympathy with and support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. They thank the progressive people in the US for courageously and unceasingly stepping up the movement against the war of aggression conducted by the US government in Viet Nam.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam calls on the governments democratic organizations and progressive people's organisations the world over and the peace, freedom and justice — loving American people to demand that the US government seriously respond to the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL and the SVNR PRG and respect the Vietnamese, people's fundamental national rights and the genuine right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and give a still stronger support and assistance, both moral and material, to the South Vietnamese people's war of resistance against the US, for national salvation till its complete victory.

An improvised bridge with human pillars to keep evacuation of wounded combatants.

The situation have become more and more favourable for us

(Communique of PLAF Command)

The Command of the PLAF on September 20 issued a communique on the military exploits achieved in August and the first half of September in South Viet Nam.
The communique said:

IN the past 45 days, our armed forces and people have attacked the enemy in nearly forty cities and provincial towns, including Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, Da Lat and Can Tho, sometimes with repeated blows.

Our targets included nearly 60 enemy headquarters at regiment, brigade or divisional levels and also the headquarters of the US Army and the General Headquarters of the puppet Navy. Heavy losses were inflicted on the headquarters of the US 1st Infantry Division, the US 1st and 5th Marine Regiments, the US 199th Infantry Brigade, and the 41th, 44th and 53rd Regiments of the puppet army. The HQs of the 9th Regiment, puppet 5th Division, was attacked twice and very violently.

Also taken under fire were more than 30 military airfields, many of them very important like the ones in Da Nang, Chu Lai, Thanh Son, and Bien Hoa. The various military ports such as Son Tra, Cam Ranh, Cat Lai and Nha Be, and many major logistical complexes of the enemy were also subject to our attacks.

Many vital roads and waterways, like Highways 13, 12, 4 and 1, and the rivers of Long Tau, Dong Nai, and Vam Co Dong, also came under continual attacks by our forces, rendering the movement of the enemy more difficult.

In areas taken by the enemy in their "pacification" operations, our people have risen up, wiped out many "pacification" teams, disbanded large numbers of "Popular Defence" units and laid siege to enemy positions. In other areas, our people have broken the enemy rule and expanded the liberated zone.

We have destroyed an important part of the enemy's live force and war materials. There included:

— Over 65,000 enemies among them 25,000 US and satellite troops killed, wounded or captured;

— 5 brigades and regiments of the US — puppets heavily trounced;

Many "crack" units of the enemy were mauled, some very badly such as the US 196th Brigade the 3rd Brigade of the US Air Cav, the US 11th Motorized Regiment and the 9th Regiment of the puppet army. The 15th Motorized Regiment of the puppet army was put out of action shortly after its formation.

In terms of war materials, enemy losses encluded:

— 795 planes shot down or destroyed on the ground;

— 2,600 military vehicles, among them 1,450 tanks and armoured cars, demolished;

— 178 war vessels sunk or damaged;

— 280 big guns destroyed;

— 80 storages of bombs, fuel and other war materiel burned down; and

— Nearly 200 positions razed to the ground.

Our latest achievements have by far surpassed the ones in the corresponding period last year in terms of US — satellite live force wiped out, and whole units, big guns, aircraft, vehicles and war vessels of the enemy destroyed.

As far as we are concerned, these victories are very significant.

First, *for all the enemy's efforts to "clear and hold", his "forward defence", his increased defence and reserved forces, his wanton B.52 bombings and indiscriminate toxic chemical sprays on areas of heavy population, our forces have operated with complete initiative on the whole battlefields, be it in the plains, the mountains, or the towns, from Quang Tri province in the North to Ca Mau province in the South, thus dealing another crushing blow at the enemy in both his defence strategy and tactics, and winning very great successes.*

It was in Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Tay Ninh province, where great enemy forces were concentrated, that we launched the fiercest attacks. Meanwhile, we also struck the enemy in all the three strategic areas in Quang Tri — Thua Thien region and in the provinces of Central and Southern Trung Bo.

Great successes were made in Mekong delta provinces, where, coupled with the severe blows dealt at the enemy on important theatres of operation, the guerilla movement raged furiously, in the countryside, along communication lines, and even in the towns.

Second, *our People's Libération Armed Forces have applied with ingenuity the various methods of combat, made the best use of the factor of surprise, and successfully opposed small forces to much greater forces of the enemy. Our ability in fighting enemy armour and aircraft has markedly increased, accounting for the annihilation of many enemy vehicles and aircraft, sometimes of whole convoys and flights. This, indeed, was a crippling blow to the enemy in one of his strongest points at present.*

On the strength of these victories and steady progress, our forces are able to conduct fierce and sustained battles in their determination to bring to complete victory the struggle against US aggression.

Third, *the guerillas war has developed with a new mettle, even in the plains and urban centres. Hundreds of thousands of people, assisted by the PLAF and with the sympathy of puppet soldiers, have risen up against "pacification" raids and pressganging.*

The enemy's "accelerated pacification," in spite of the savage methods applied, has been contained or repelled at many places.

Four, *correctly led by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and encouraged by the support from our kith and kin in the North, we have continued to step up the offensive and uprising, giving full play to our revolutionary heroism in fighting, thus obtaining many new great victories, which have created good conditions for our generalized offensive and widespread uprising to win more and bigger successes in the days to come.*

As for the enemy, our latest victories have pushed them further into the blind alley of their aggressive war and multiplied their military, political and economic difficulties.

First, for all their military efforts, the enemy have failed to increase their efficiency. Far from halting our onslaught, the "clear and hold" strategy has revealed many more weak points of the US and puppets and caused them to sink deeper into passiveness.

Women guerillas of the Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh province)

Vigorous blows have been dealt at the US in its intention to reduce its casualties, to "de-escalate" from a position of strength, and to "de-americanize" the war. The puppet army, pushed to the battlefield to take the brunt of the war in the place of the US troops, has been seriously beaten together with its US "ally," and the casualty rate of both is rising visibly. Morale is particularly low among enemy troops. To run away before fighting or to abandon weapons, vehicles and even the wounded and dead on the battlefield has become a thing of daily occurrence in both the US and puppet army, while anti-war actions by whole companies have become more and more frequent in the US forces. Desertion is rampant among the puppet army. It is clear that all the hardware the enemy has rained on South Viet Nam cannot make up for their very basic weak points — their troops' declining combativeness, sinking morale, and incapacity to discharge their strategic tasks.

The strong criticism against the farcical withdrawal of 25,000 troops in July and August and the growing casualty rate of the US forces have lately compelled Nixon to announce the withdrawal of another 35,000 troops from now to the year end. This is but a new trick to appease the antiwar movement of the pepple and students in the United States, and to cover up the scheme of the US to carry on the war and maintain the nearly 500,000 Americans in the field, while clinging to the corrupt Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique condemned and despised by the entire Vietnamese people. This also spells out a new setbacks of the Nixon administration in the face of the resolute struggle of the surging movement of the world's people and the progressive people in the United States against the US war of aggression.

Indeed, none of the boasts of the US about its "good will" or about the ability of the puppet army to replace the US forces can negate the hard fact that it is impossible for the US to bolster up the puppet army and administration. Neither can it materialize its scheme of "de-Americanizing" the war, nor "de-escalate" of its own free will, and still less can it gain a position of strength.

Second, the recent farce of cabinet reshuffle in Saigon is but a move to gang up the various groups of reactionaries and to give the puppet regime a varnish of democracy and broad union. The choice of Tran Thien Khiem to head a cabinet mainly composed of puppet militarymen and former agents of Ngo Dinh Diem only emphasizes the enemy's political isolation and the bitter power struggle among the puppets. At grassroots level, the puppet administration has become less effective with the failure of the "pacification" program. Meanwhile, the growing antiwar movement in the United States and the world has increased the confusion among the American ruling circles. Nixon and his aides only met with strong popular protests in their trips to a number of Asian and Latin American countries.

Third, both the economic and financial situation in enemy controlled areas are very critical. The puppets' budgetary deficits are very serious, while prices are skyrocketing, and inflation and money devaluation keep worsening, causing greater misery to the already unbearable life of the population there.

All this has exploded the appearance of prosperity in the towns, shed light on the ailing, dependent economy there, and pointed to the utter incapacity and extremely odious features of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration. Moreover, this had given the lie to the boast about the "progress" of the "rural pacification".

Both the military situation and the balance of forces have become more and more favourable for us, further proving this law: in spite of all the difficulties, the more we fight, the greater our strength and the higher our determination. The US — puppets, though still very obdurate, will weaken more and more with the prolongation of the war.

At present, in spite of their evident failure Nixon and Co. are still struggling desperately. But it is a certainty that they can never carry through their schemes to prolong and "de-americanize" the war, to "pacify" the countryside, and to "de-escalate" from a position of strength.

US — Puppets' truce violation

Follows a statement issued on September 11 by the spokesman of the PLAF Command on the violation by the US imperialists and their henchmen, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, of the 3-day truce (September 8, 9, 10) initiated by the PLAF in connection with President HO CHI MINH's death:

"FOLLOWING a decision by the joint meeting of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Advisory Council of the Government in connection with the funeral of President HO CHI MINH, the PLAF Command on September 5 ordered all the Liberation Armed Forces on all the battlefields in South Viet Nam to observe a 3-day ceasefire from 0:00 hr, September 8 to 0:00 hr September 11, 1969 (Indo Chinese Time), so that the South Vietnamese people might mourn President HO CHI MINH in safety.

That decision reflected our people's earnest desire to pay tribute to President HO CHI MINH, the beloved leader of the entire Vietnamese nation. That is why it was warmly acclaimed by the people in both the liberated zone and enemy-controlled areas, and the world's people, and won the sympathy and response of large numbers of puppet soldiers and administrative personnel.

The US imperialists and their henchmen, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, however, have brazenly broken the truce. Their terror raids and air and artillery activities were greatly stepped up. On the 3 days of September 8, 9 and 10, the US — puppets conducted over 170 battalion — or bigger-sized operations, not to mention company — or platoon — sized operations. On an average, there were more than 50 battalion — sized operations in each of the three days mentioned above, as against the daily average of 45 previously. There were also 320 sorties of fighter planes and 1,200 sorties of armed helicopters. The previous daily average was 60 for fighter planes and 300 for armed helicopters.

Enemy war vessels made as many as 900 sorties against the various coastal and river areas causing great difficulties to the normal activity of the local population.

These frenzied acts of the US — puppets have seriously hurt the most sacred feelings of our people towards President HO CHI MINH, and for this have aroused seething indignation among our entire people and our armed forces.

These acts have also trampled underfoot the righteous desire of many puppet soldiers of conscience who have joined our people in mourning President HO CHI MINH.

All this is a crude intolerable challenge to our people and the Liberation Armed Forces.

What has happened has further exposed the extremely reactionary obstinate character of the aggressors and the traitors, the sworn enemy of our people and the progressive people in the world.

The US imperialists and their lackeys will certainly receive due punishment for their bellicosity.

The People's Liberation Armed Forces are resolved to do as President HO CHI MINH, in his will, has told them to "The resistance war against US aggression may drag out. Our compatriots may have to undergo new sacrifices in terms of property and human lives. In any case, we must be resolved to fight against the US aggressors till total victory."

Bomb blast in "Paloma"

Commander Tu drew a circle with a red pencil on a large-scale map of Saigon, Gia Dinh, around the "Paloma", a five-storeyed building in Nguyen Van Thoai street of Saigon's 5th Precinct.

The death sentence was thus pronounced against that major hide-out of US navy officers.

The billet, normally accomodating some 300 US aggressors was flanked with four pill-boxes and guarded by a main force platoon and the military police. Beyond the barbed-wire fence, on the pavement, plainclothes agents were on the beat round the clock.

It was drizzling, and the evening was still young. At 7 p.m. on July 10, some 200 Americans had already assembled on the first and second floors enjoying themselves with much gusts. At 8:30 p.m. the arrival of ten more car-loads of Yankees made the party even more boisterous.

Platoon leader L. was first to open fire, aiming at the left-hand pill-box. So did his men. Meanwhile T. dashed up to the front door where he placed his plastic charge.

At the first shots, the Americans inside ran for their lives, those on the upper floors towards the stairwell, and those on the first floor toward the entrance.

The explosion hurled them back. Among broken glass and furniture lay 160 GIs, lifeless or groaning in agony.

Deputy-Commander Nguyen Thi Dinh visiting a PLAF unit

President HO CHI MINH in the heart of South Viet Nam

« THE RESISTANCE WAR AGAINST US AGGRESSION MAY DRAG OUT. OUR COMPATRIOTS MAY HAVE TO UNDERGO NEW SACRIFICES IN TERMS OF PROPERTY AND HUMAN LIVES. IN ANY CASE, WE MUST BE RESOLVED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE US AGGRESSORS TILL TOTAL VICTORY »

(Will of President HO CHI MINH)

View of the meeting Hall during memorial ceremony for the late President Ho Chi Minh held by the Front and the Alliance Central Committee and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

President Huynh Tan Phat, (left) Vice- President Nguyen Kiet and other members of the SVNR. PRG before paying their last respects to President Ho Chi Minh

Thank you, President Ho, for having given me fortitude

AN intellectual trained at a time regarded as the golden age of the French colonial rule, I, like other intellectuals of my generation still living in the occupied towns of South Viet Nam, was well acquainted with President Ho Chi Minh's human qualities and activities for Viet Nam's independence and freedom. Nevertheless, it was after joining in the nationwide resistance against US aggression that I came to know him better and better, and became gradually enlightened by his fervid national spirit, his deep hatred for colonialism and imperialism and its lackeys, the traitors — something that I had never felt or seldom thought of.

I had felt for him even before meeting him in the flesh high esteem and affection inspired by newspaper articles, books and films on him, which gave me a clear picture of his record as a revolutionist. His voice over the radio, his words, his verses supplied me with invaluable inspiration and encouragement at critical junctures. As all our fellow-country men and combatants, here in the South, I had longed to meet him. My wish was fulfilled early this year when, at the invitation of the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, I visited the North, at the head of an NFL delegation. The first was also, alas, the last time that President Ho hugged me and I had the great honour of hugging him. His tears wetted my cheeks. After a few minutes of deep emotion mingled with delight, I felt as though an extraordinary force had been infused into me. And it dawned on me why our fighters and our people were fired forward to confront the enemy by his appeals.

Now that he has parted from us for ever, the grief I am feeling for this irreparable loss strengthens my confidence in the bright future of our nation, in the path he has charted for us, and in the mission he has entrusted to us.

During my visit to the North one thing especially struck me. President Ho Chi Minh fostered solid revolutionary virtues and a lofty national spirit in the intelligentsia, among which are many of school-mates of mine, which helped them face harships and sacrifices for the sake of the Fatherland and their fellow-country men. I had the opportunity to see that many had scored far-reaching achievements in scientific researchs as in other fields, such as Dr Ton That Tung, Vu Cong Hoe, Dang Van Chung, Nguyen Tan Gi Trong and many others, whom I do cannot all list here.

It is owing to President Ho's leadership and sollicitude that they have become labour heroes or university professors or eminent politicians like Tran Duy Hung, the mayor of Hanoi and earned the love of the people at home and the esteem of foreigners abroad. Engineer Kha Vang Can, in particular, the owner of a small foundry under the French rule, has become Minister of Light Industry, well versed in sophisticated techniques salt extraction with modern means such as in organizational questions.

I also met younger intellectuals trained in Britain or France who, in response to the call of President Ho and the Fatherland, were devoting all their energies to national construction. Many and many young engineers, doctors and technicians that I happened to come across put all their confidence in Uncle Ho who instilled in them exalted qualities required by the building of an independent, free and strong Viet Nam.

We are grateful to President Ho for his unreserved dedication to the Vietnamese people, for having driven out the colonialists, restored independence and freedom to our country, and fostered an intelligentsia with great virtues and qualification indispensable to national construction. In these days of sorrow for our fellow-citizens throughout the country, I wish to emphatically state this once again: as an intellectual strongly influenced by an imported colonialist culture who through won over to revolution only recently has seen many fine things of a society built on national characteristics under the leadership of President Ho and with the fortitude he infused into everyone, I am firmly confident in the triumph of our patriotic struggle against US aggression, and pledge myself to strive indefatigably and translate into reality his last instructions, to our entire people.

(By Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, Vice-President and Minister of the Interior of the PRG of the SVNR, head of the NFL Delegation visiting the DRVN early 1969).

Long live President Ho Chi Minh!

"Long live President Ho Chi Minh!", this sacred slogan resounding on the battlefield is by far more stirring than a bugle call. It urges our fighters forward to wipe out the enemy.

"Long live President Ho Chi Minh!", young combatant Lanh Van Manh shouted one autumn day in the Tay Ninh—Binh Long theatre, in the surge of widespread offensives and simultaneous uprisings.

Lanh Van Manh's shout: "Long live President Ho Chi Minh!" raised at a decisive moment contributed effectively to the successful end of the battle.

Born into a minority people family, Manh was the age of the August Revolution. While growing up, he had been more and more conscious of the immense services rendered by the Revolution and Uncle Ho to his family, his village and his country. He constantly bore in mind the image of Uncle Ho and his word: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". He had enthusiastically joined the people's army.

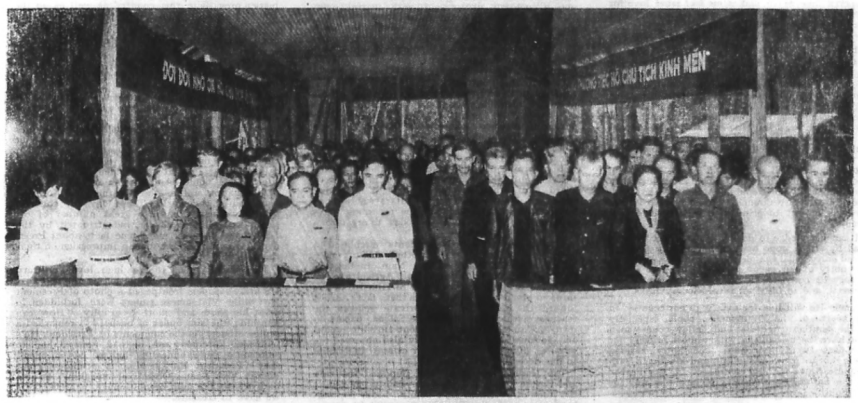
In the battle at D.L, Manh was hit in one calf. His wound contricted muscles and caused him great pain. The calf shrank more and more. The comrades of Manh were convinced that he was no longer able to fight. But he did not think so. Burning with the desire to serve his country, he said to himself: "I have only fought two battles. It is not enough. And I actually no longer able to go on fighting? No!"

Manh made up his mind to practise walking and running. He remembered Uncle Ho's learning: "Nothing is difficult. We are afraid only of lack of perseverance".

Day after day, he practised going about on crutches in the hospital. Every effort cost him painful efforts. When his heart failed him, he thought of Uncle Ho who had practised running and climbing mountains to keep up his courage, Uncle Ho had then just been released from a prison of a reactionary administration. Living alone in a foreign country, in spite of his weakened eyes and of his unsteady steps, he had every morning climbed up Mount Tay Phong, determined to temper himself with a view to carrying on his long march. Manh saw in imagination the snow-white hair of the nation's Father standing among green trees on the top of Tay Phong. He seemed to hear Heroes Nguyen Van The and Ly Van Lam whisper into his ear that—maimed as they had been—they had recorded brilliant exploits by carrying out Unle Ho's word: "Nothing is difficult. We are afraid only of lack of perseverance".

Having succeeded in walking normally, Manh practised running, jumping, climbing and carrying heavy things. His great wish was finally fulfilled: he was allowed to come back to his unit to go on fighting.

In an PLAF attack on enemy relief columns on Highway N° 14 Manh hit two American tanks. Jumping on one of them, he manned the turret heavy machine-gun to wipe out the enemy. At that moment, he proudly shouted: "Long live President Ho Chi Minh!"



Ten-minute silence observed in memory of the late President Ho Chi Minh.

President HO CHI MINH in the heart of South Viet Nam

He is the Pole star...

THERE is a terrible pain in my heart... What can I say now? How can I say all my feeling when the entire people is grieved upon learning of President Ho's passing away? This is a great mourning as never befallen the Vietnamese nation and a heavy loss not only for it but also for the whole mankind.

However, I also feel a profound relief for having the happiness and the honour of meeting President Ho when the Delegation of the Alliance Committee visited the North. This constitutes a great happiness and a great honour to me because I have longed for it since a quarter of a century, and this also represents a happiness and a pride after which my Southern fellow-countrymen and fighters have so long yearned in vain.

President Ho gives me the impression of a genius in a legend to which we were familiar in our childhood. He has a hoary hair, a rosy complexion and a noble demeanour which reveals a poet, a philosopher and a great man in the Orient combined in one.

I am elated to be handed flowers and given a seat near Uncle Ho. He is so jovial and simple for a while I forget that I am beside the greatest, most glorious and noblest leader of the country's four-thousand-year history, and think instead that I am sitting by sweet Mother, oblivious of all concerns and blessed with boundless felicity.

Uncle shows us a photo of young valiant fighters sitting around Him: "I thank the Southern mothers for having given birth and brought up so gallant youngsters," he says with tears in his eyes.

Indeed, his affection for the Southern youths, fighters, cadres and fellow-countrymen is immense like the Southern mountains and rivers, like the sea and the sky of the whole country. He radiates a sacred love which makes me feel more love for my fellow-countrymen and my fatherland, and boundless respect for Him.

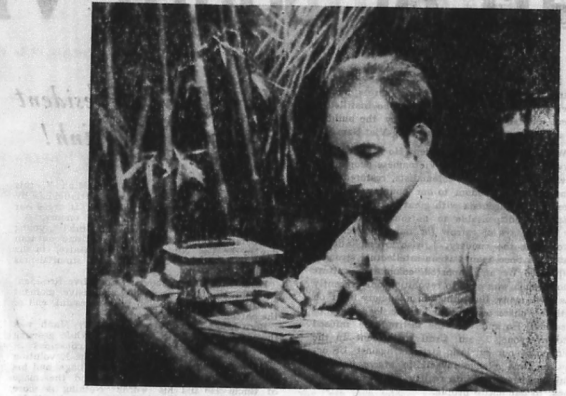
Uncle Ho is no more! This loss is undescribable!

At the Ba Dinh square, in the most solemn mourning ceremony of Viet Nam, sharing the immense sorrow of my fellow-countrymen and the grief of heads of state, representatives of nations and organizations the world over, I visualize that something most sacred and finest of our nation has merged with President Ho: as stated in the Appeal to the South Viet Nam fellow-countrymen, fighters and entire people by the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council, "President Ho is the greatest subject of pride of our Fatherland and people."

I can but pledge to do my best for our Fatherland by acting upon his teaching "unity, unity, broad unity" and ceaselessly striving to strengthen the unity of our entire people in order to secure victory for our patriotic resistance against US aggression, and to fulfil all revolutionary tasks.

Uncle Ho will live for ever with our country, in the hearts of the Vietnamese people, especially of the Southern fighters and fellow-countrymen who have been fighting with utmost bravery for the past twenty-five years, constantly turning their thoughts toward the kith-and-kin North with boundless love for and confidence in, the Father of the nation, the Pole star blazing the way for the South.

Mrs NGUYEN DINH CHI,
Member of the Advisory Council, Vice-president of the Committee of the ANDPF of Hue city, Vice-president of the Revolutionary people's Committee of Thua Thien — Hue.



President Ho Chi Minh was working at Viet Bac base, in the resistance war against the French colonialists.

A Referendum in Saigon

The Saigon people have ostensibly expressed their deep regret and profound gratitude for President HO CHI MINH. They inquired one another about his death. Showing a newspaper to a customer, a cyclocab driver said with tearful eyes, "Our President has passed away." They felt grieved and honoured at the same time upon learning that Heads of state of many countries and world opinion admired and mourned him. They praised his achievements with the pride of being a citizen of Viet Nam under a President of world renown.

Although the traitors Thieu-Ky Khiem tried all means to hush the news and forbid any comment on President Ho's contribution to the Vietnamese nation, the various strata of the Saigonese mourned him, acquainted themselves with his biography and pledged to turn grief into revolutionary deeds. Broad masses of workers, toilers, youths, pupils... wore mourning bands. Workers from the Vinatexco weaving mill, the vermicelli factory in the Sixth Ward and other entreprises held a mourning ceremony. Many people set up altars where they burnt joss-sticks throughout the mourning days or brought flowers to the pagodas to organize a requiem for his soul.

In the universities the students circulated a biography of President Ho jotted down from a broadcast of the Voice of Viet Nam. In the Colleges of Sciences, Letters and Agriculture the learners paid their last respects to Him by taking turns to stand to attention with their faces turned toward the North. In many private schools, the teachers selected news from the Saigon papers to introduce to their pupils President Ho's life record and glorious achievements. They also observed ten minutes of silence before their classes in tribute to the deceased hero.

The leading bonzes at the Buddhist Institute and the An Quang pagoda were visibly moved at the news of President Ho's demise. From September 4 to 9, 1969 the Superior Bonzes at An Quang pagoda suspended all contacts with the faithful to hold mess. Said one of them: "History has given the Vietnamese nation a signal honour, namely to possess a hero who devoted all his life and his energies to liberate the country and the nation. Now that this hero has passed away, every Lac Hong descendants cannot but be grieved. The day when President Ho departed from this world is the day when one can tell good from evil, when justice prevails in this country as well as in the world. Justice is invincible, justice is eternal."

The atmosphere of Saigon during these days of great mourning has given the puppet officers and soldiers food for thought. A captain thus remarked, "A referendum is being held in the South with Mr Ho Chi Minh as the winner of the people's hearts".

In the puppet military services, many brasshats were affected by President Ho's demise. Many of them said: "Our Viet Nam is wonderful! The concern of the world in President Ho's obsequies all the more shows his status and that of Viet Nam — which I have never guessed so far". What they admire most is precisely what world opinion talks of most. "That is President Ho's devoted life and his noble ideal combining the interests of the nation and of the working class, of Viet Nam and of the world. These days of common grief have helped a fairly great number of officers and soldiers so far indoctrinated by the US-puppets discover many true facts about President Ho, which marks a deep impression on their thinking and action.

The general mood in the high level military services was a violent indignation at the fact that US army's papers frontpaged a photo of President Ho while Vietnamese papers were forbidden to print his photo and short biography. "How can one hide the sun under a bushel?" remarked a senior officer. As the comments on President Ho's mourning ceremony ran high, a general had to summon a psywar meeting but he had to admit that "President Ho Chi Minh is a unique great man in Viet Nam... Objectively speaking, he is a hero whose life and revolutionary achievements we have to treasure."

Even among the highest-ranking functionaries of the Saigon puppet administration, everybody felt a boundless admiration for President Ho's great achievements in furtherance of the national cause.

September 23rd Will live for ever!

Every year, when comes the fall, we intellectuals cannot forget a memorable historic day — September 23, 1945, known as the Day of Nam Bo Resistance.

How can we forget the image of the Saigonese "ready to die rather than be slaves" who, together with fellow-countrymen throughout Nam Bo, fired the first shots, beginning the sacred resistance of the entire nation against the French colonialists and the American interventionists?

Twenty-four years have gone by, but myself a Saigonese intellectual still keeps vivid the image of the self-defence group, equipped partly with rifles and partly with swords, which defended Ban Co for months on end. To the enemy's formidable armoury the Nam Bo people opposed a staunch will. With bare hands they chased the adversary at Cau Bong! One feels joy and pride at such indomitability. This spirit and mettle is truly outstanding. It has deep roots in the national pride and promotes the glorious tradition of resistance against foreign aggression handed down by Tran Hung Dao, Le Loi, Quang Trung. It is the result of the spirit "ready to die rather than be slaves" for the conquest of independence and freedom by an entire nation. That is why the French colonialists who did occupy part of our territory, could not win the hearts of the Nam Bo people. That also explains why French aggressors were killed or wreated of their weapons right in Saigon despite a host of foreign legionaries, policemen and secret agents.

Photos of President Ho Chi Minh and yellow-star-red red flags were flown not only in the streets but even on the house-roofs of topmost colonialists. It is in this city, a part of the Nam Bo Bulwark of the Fatherland that the pledge "to resist to the end for national salvation" became the unshakeable determination of an indomitable people. From town to country, people still unacquainted with military training marched to the front.

The history of the Nam Bo Resistance clearly shows the contribution of our intellectuals to the revolution. We are very proud of it, but more has to be done. For our contribution to the revolution is still small. We have to heighten our responsibility toward our nation, especially when our entire people are fighting US imperialism, the most cruel imperialism of this 20th century.

Since 1954, US imperialism has devised every cunning trick, every blatant manoeuvre to invade the South of our country. At first, they hid under the signboard of advisors to prop up the puppet Ngo Dinh Diem administration, trigger off a special war and carry out neo-colonialism. After the special war was defeated by the Southern armed forces and people, they waged an atrocious and bloody limited war in the South and launched a war of destruction in the North. However, US imperialism was grossly mistaken.

Fearless of sacrifices our people in both zones, millions united like one, have defeated the US imperialists' war of destruction in the North and are defeating their limited war in the South. In the present resistance against US aggression the Saigonese have promoted the tradition of indomitability of September 23, January 9, March 10... Braving bombs and shells, toxic chemicals, and the huge US-puppet repressive machinery, they have dealt telling blows right at the enemy's last dens, bringing a worthy contribution to the common victory of the entire people. Saigon has well deserved of being the sworn brother of Hanoi and Hue. The intellectuals in Saigon and in the South as a whole have made a good account of themselves in comparison of their elders and set a good example to the young generation. Martyrs Nguyen Van Duong and Nguyen Thi Dieu, Le Quang Vinh and Le Hong Tu now detained in Poulo Condor, Nguyen Huu Tho, Huynh Tan Phat, Trinh Dinh Thao and thousands of other intellectuals still fighting have enhanced the credit of our nation, of the Saigonese and of our intelligentsia.

Twenty-four years ago, we intellectuals had the honour, together with the people of Saigon and of Nam Bo as a whole, of firing the first shots at the French aggressors. Today, history entrusts the Saigonese with a most heavy but most glorious mission: to fire at the US-puppet last dens and, together with the entire people, "to drive out the Yankees and to overthrow the puppets". In the immediate furture, we resolutely topple the Thieu-Ky-Khiem traitors and struggle for a cabinet of peace, for serious talks with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the basis of the ten-point solution put forward by the National Front for Liberation.

Uncle Ho taught us: "The nearer we are to victory, the more difficulties we meet". Our enemy is still very obdurate and will sow more death and mourning. Our people will have to go through more sacrifices and hardships, but imbued with the spirit "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" we intellectuals will courageously much forward to fulfil the glorious mission entrusted by history and be worthy of belonging to the city named after Ho Chi Minh.

At present, our venerated and beloved Uncle Ho, the great leader of our nation has passed away. Together with the entire people, the Saigon intellectuals and fellow-citizens are stricken with a boundless grief. However, under the leadership of Uncle, more than ever the Vietnamese revolution faces bright prospects, our people's confidence in the final victory strengthens and the ranks of the revolutionaries and of the intellectuals in particular consolidate. In this minute of sorrow and decisive struggle we intellectuals are determined to turn grief into revolutionary deeds, and together with the Southern people to rush forward to drive out the Yankees, overthrow the puppets, liberate the South, defend the North and advance toward the reunification of the country, thus fulfilling the lofty aspiration of venerated and beloved Uncle Ho during all his lifetime.

Prof. NGUYEN VAN CHI

President of the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Revolutionary People's Committee

We are resolved...

(Continued from page 1)

a worthy contribution to the historic Dien Bien Phu victory which frustrated the French colonialists' aggressive design upon Viet Nam. Their fire over the past fifteen years has foiled US armed intervention then "special war" in the South, and is now defeating its "limited war". The past twenty-four years have been a record of their valiant struggle and a contribution to the heroic fight of our whole people who "will have earned the signal honour... of defeating two big imperialisms — the French and the US." (3).

Upholding the spirit of the Nam Bo Resistance Day, the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces have been giving a strong fillip to their combat for national salvation and registered one success after another. Their all-sided successes during the generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings in early 1968, and particularly since the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, mark a new development of their resistance against US aggression. According to a communique of the PLAF command in a short period (August 1 — September 15), the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam mounted attacks on 40 towns and cities, 60 CPs of American and puppet regiment-sized units upwards and 30 military airfields, landing-stages and storages. As a result, over 65,000 adverse troops were wiped out, 759 aeroplanes downed or destroyed on the ground, 2,600 military vehicles destroyed, 178 warships and landing crafts, set on fire or sent to the bottom, 80 ammunition and fuel depots burned down. These achievements show that as regards both battle array and relation of forces, the situation has evolved ever more in our favour. That is a fact which corroborates a law governing our struggle, i.e. although we have to face many difficulties and hardships, the longer we fight, the stronger our position, the greater our strength, the firmer our determination, and the surer our final victory" (4).

In spite of very heavy losses the Nixon administration remains utterly stubborn. While trumpeting about its "good will" and "desire for peace", it is seeking every means to thwart a sound settlement of the South Viet Nam issue through negotiations conducted on the basis of respect for Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as proposed by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government in their ten-point overall solution. The Nixon administration uses every perfidious trick to balk the total and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and to challenge the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. The pull-out of 35,000 men is just a move to placate the American and world peoples. The fact is that since he came to power Nixon has been sticking to an aggressive stance, obdurately stepping up the war and doing his best to give some kind of veneer to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration and consolidate the Saigon army. He is pushing up the "Vietnamization," of the war, which in essence boils down to carrying on US aggression with more puppet forces, maintaining and consolidating US neo-colonialist domination, and prolonging the partition of our country.

The Nixon administration's obstinate position has landed the Paris Conference in an impasse and rendered the situation in South Viet Nam still more serious. This has compelled this instruction of President Ho Chi Minh in his testament: "The war of resist-nce may drag on. Our people may have to face new sacrifices in life and property. Whatever happens, we must keep firm our resolve to fight the US aggressors till total victory."

These words strongly inspire our fellow-country men here in the South. Commemorating the Nam Bo Resistance Day we feel deep gratitude for the immense service rendered by President Ho Chi Minh to the South Vietnamese revolution. In the past twenty-four years, until he departed from this world, he closely followed their struggle, constantly encouraged them and commended their successes. Right after the war broke out, he said: "Nam Bo should strive to resist, Trung Bo and Bac Bo should help Nam Bo as best they can, and stand vigilant (5). Since then he turned his thoughts to the people and fighters in the South, devoting to them all his care, attention and affection. Before he parted from us for ever, he voiced his confidence in the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces: "No matter what difficulties and hardships lie ahead, our people are sure of total triumph. The US imperialists shall have to quit. Our Fatherland shall be reunified. Our fellow-countrymen in the South and the North shall be reunited under the same roof."

Deeply grieved by the death of beloved and venerated President Ho Chi Minh, and true to the pledge they took twenty-four years back, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to bring into full play the spirit of the Nam Bo Resistance Day and their nation's brilliant traditions so as to accomplish the glorious mission they are entrusted with by history. "To be worthy of his contributions and solicitude and also to ease Uncle his noble dream accomplish the path he had charted to the all the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, we, the fourteen million South Vietnamese, pledge ourselves to our seventeen million Northern brothers to unite millions as one man, turn our grief into strength to persevere in, and push forward, our war of resistance with the determination to fight and to win till the total withdrawal of US troops and the collapse of the puppet administration and army in order to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland."

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

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(1) Declaration of Independence
(2) President Ho Chi Minh's Appeal on the outbreak of the Nationwide resistance to the French colonialists' aggression, Dec. 20, 1945.
(3) President Ho Chi Minh's Testament
(4) PLAF Command's communique, Sept. 20, 1969
(5) Message from the NFL Central Committee, the CC of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR and the Advisory Council of the PRG to the DRVN Government and National Assembly, the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

Friendly meetings between :

NGUYEN HUU THO — NORODOM SIHANOUK, NGUYEN HUU THO — SOUPHANOUVONG

NFL President calls on Cambodian Head of State

— Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, during his stay in Hanoi for the funeral of President HO CHI MINH, has called on Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

President Nguyen Huu Tho was accompanied by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, and Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, SVNR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

With Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk was Prince Norodom Phourissara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Cambodian Royal Government.

In an extremely cordial atmosphere, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk embraced President Nguyen Huu Tho.

President Nguyen Huu Tho sincerely thanked Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, his wife, and the members of the national delegation of Cambodia, for having come to Hanoi to attend the funeral of President HO CHI MINH, the great, revered leader of the Vietnamese people. President Nguyen Huu Tho stressed that noble act on the part of Samdech Head of State had greatly moved the people in both parts of Viet Nam.

President Nguyen Huu Tho also expressed the gratitude felt by the South Vietnamese people, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, and the Advisory Council of the Government, for the vigorous, timely support rendered by the Cambodian Royal Government and the fraternal Khmer people led by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk to the South Vietnamese people's just struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

President Nguyen Huu Tho reiterated the consistent policy of the South Viet Nam NFL, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, and the Advisory Council of the Government, to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders.

After informing the Cambodian leader of the situation in South Viet Nam and the great victories recorded recently by the South Vietnamese people and Liberation armed forces, President Nguyen Huu Tho reaffirmed the latter's iron determination to fight till all the US troops have quited and till the puppet administration has completely collapsed in order to liberate South Viet Nam, defend North Viet Nam, and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country, as President Ho Chi Minh had instructed them.

For his part, Samdech Sihanouk expressed his boundless regret for President Ho Chi Minh, and requested his guest to convey his condolences to the people in both South and North Viet Nam. He paid high tribute to President Ho Chi Minh for his achievements and virtues and his policy of solidarity, especially for the policy of Viet Nam — Cambodia solidarity he had pursued untiringly. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk also praised President Ho Chi Minh's line of struggle for national independence which, he said, was a bright example for all movements for national independence, democracy and social progress.

He said with emphasis that the relations of friendship and borderhood between the peoples of Cambodia and Viet Nam had been built on the basis of the common struggle against US imperialism and for the independence and freedom of each people. For this reason, he pointed out, that friendship is lasting and unshakable.

Again, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk affirmed the Cambodian Royal Government's strong, all-out, consistent support for the South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. He expressed his resolve to back the 10-point overall solution advocated by the South Viet Nam NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, demanding the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and the settlement by the South Vietnamese themselves of their own affairs without foreign interference.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of extreme sincerity and cordiality.

A visit has also been paid to Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk, wife of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, by PRG Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, Nguyen Dinh Chi, member of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, Vice-President of the Hue Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and Vice-President of the Thua Thien — Hue People's Revolutionary Committee, and Ma Thi Chu, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and Ambassador Nguyen Van Hieu have also visited Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Phourissara.

South Viet Nam Delegation Meets Laotian Delegation

The South Viet Nam delegation led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, had paid a visit here to the delegation of the Laotian Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat) led by Prince Souphanouvong, President of the LPF Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the Laotian tripartite National Union Government. The two delegations had arrived in Hanoi to attend President Ho Chi Minh's funeral.

President Nguyen Huu Tho was accompanied by Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Advisory Council of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government; Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the NFL Central Committee and Foreign Minister of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government; and Ho Xuan Son, member of the NFL Central Committee.

With Prince Souphanouvong were Sithon Kommadam and Phaydang, Vice-President of the LPF Central Committee, Phoumi Vongvichit, Secretary General and many members of the LPF Central Committee, and members of the LPF delegation.

Prince Souphanouvong expressed his elation at having the honour to meet the South Viet Nam delegation led by President Nguyen Huu Tho.

After conveying his condolences to the people of South and North Viet Nam over the passing away of esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, Prince Souphanouvong voiced his admiration for the heroic South Vietnamese people's persistent struggle against US aggression. He stressed : "With the heartfelt sentiments and deep unity of those standing on the same front against US imperialism, the Laotian people are firmly convinced that the South Vietnamese people, under the clear-sighted leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, will win final victory in their sacred struggle against US aggression, for national salvation as said in the Will of beloved President HO CHI MINH."

Prince Souphanouvong said that the Laotian people have constantly followed the staunch struggle waged by the South Vietnamese people, and have drawn from it valuable experiences to fight and defeat the US aggressors.

Once again Prince Souphanouvong affirmed the increasing militant solidarity between the two peoples.

President Nguyen Huu Tho expressed his emotion at meeting Prince Souphanouvong and the other members of the LPF delegation in Hanoi during its stay here for the funeral of President HO CHI MINH.

President Nguyen Huu Tho expressed his deep thanks to the heroic Laotian people and thanked Prince Souphanouvong and the members of the LPF delegation for having come to Hanoi to share the Vietnamese people's grief.

He paid tribute to the Laotian people's heroic struggle against US aggression, wishing it bigger and more brilliant successes. "Your victories are ours," he said: "They have created favourable conditions for our struggle to defend the Fatherland," he pointed out.

President Nguyen Huu Tho emphasized : "The 44 million South Vietnamese people will at all costs carry out President HO CHI MINH's great desire, that is to enhance solidarity, completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate South Viet Nam, reunify the country, and contribute to the safeguarding of peace in Indo-China, South-East Asia and the world."

President Nguyen Huu Tho wished that the militant solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and Laos consolidate and develop with every passing day.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of warm brotherhood and militant solidarity of companions-in-arms in the struggle against US aggression.

Warm greetings to the fraternal Chinese and German peoples

TOGETHER with the entire progressive mankind, we South Vietnamese on firing line, in our feelings of ardent friendship and binding unity, wish to extend our warmest greetings to the 700 million fraternal Chinese people on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The victory of the Chinese Revolution and the birth of the People's Republic of China following the great Russian October Revolution have completely tipped the scales to the favour of the world revolution. These events have completely changed the aspects of the world and created a new position and situation for the forces of revolution, to the great encouragement of the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Under the leadership of the PRC Government and the glorious Communist Party of China headed by beloved Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people in the past 20 years have unceasingly brought into play their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and, overcoming untold hardships and working with creativeness and all-out efforts at a "one-day-equalling-twenty-years" tempo, have caused great changes on the vast land of China. A former backward, agricultural, half-feudal, half-colonial country, China has become nowadays a big power of modern industry, agriculture, and national defence, and advanced culture, science and technology.

In the most recent years, the Chinese people have recorded brilliant successes in various fields in the construction of their prosperous country...

The successes of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution initiated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung have accelerated national construction, the consolidation of national defence, and economic development.

The growth of the People's Republic of China has made an important contribution to the strengthening of the forces of revolution against war-seeking, aggressive US imperialism, and to the defence of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

With eagerness, the South Vietnamese people have been following the splendid accomplishments of the fraternal Chinese people. We firmly believe that the people of great China, in the light of the Resolution of the 9th Congress of the CPC, will record many more and yet greater successes. The South Vietnamese people, fighting for independence, freedom and national reunification, fully support the PRC Government and the Communist Party of China headed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and the 700 million Chinese people, in their unshakable will to liberate Taiwan of Chinese territory. The South Vietnamese people strongly condemn all war-provoking acts of the US and its henchmen against China, and warmly hail the Chinese people for the punishment meted out to the US imperialists and their lackeys for the encroachment on China's territorial waters and air space.

Faithful to her lofty internationalist duty, the People's Republic of China has from her first day given constant support and assistance to the various nations fighting US-led imperialism, and old and new colonialism, for independence and freedom.

The South Vietnamese people, in their struggle against US aggression for national salvation, have always enjoyed the devoted, effective support and assistance from the PRC Government, the Communist Party of China and the 700 million people of great China.

We are greatly moved at and very proud of this noble comradeship. China's enthusiastic support and assistance in many fields to us has greatly contributed to our victories over the US imperialist aggressors.

The Chinese people's resolve to give all-out support and assistance to the South Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people as a whole has been best illustrated by the statement addressed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, their great leader and a respected friend of the Vietnamese people, to President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, on the occasion of the 7th anniversary (Dec. 20, 1967) of the NFL — "We firmly support you. We are neighbouring countries as closely related as the lips and the teeth. Our two peoples are brothers sharing weal and woe. The fraternal South Vietnamese people and the entire fraternal Vietnamese people can rest assured that your struggle is our struggle. The seven hundred million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people, the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area."

The South Vietnamese people highly value China's recognition of and diplomatic relations with, the NFL, and most recently, China's recognition of and diplomatic relations at embassy level, with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The resolute support and assistance by the PRC Government, the Communist Party of China and the people of great China has helped increase our strength, and greatly encouraged us to rush ahead in the flush of victory to defeat completely the US aggressors.

On the occasion this historic anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the South Vietnamese people, the NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government wish to express their deepest sense of indebtedness and their best wishes to the Chinese people, the PRC Government and the Communist Party of China headed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

May the Chinese people record many more and yet greater successes in building a prosperous country!

May the militant solidarity between the Vietnamese people and the Chinese people last for ever!

THE German Democratic Republic will be exactly 20, on October 20th 1969. The past twenty years are years of ceaseless struggle and spendid successes of her people, who smashed Hitlerite fascism, carried out successfully the anti fascist democratic revolution and the socialist revolution. The imperialist and fascist rule was completely overthrown and the worker-peasant power, the first in her history, has been established.

In the last twenty years, which is but a brief span of history, under the clear-sighted leadership of the German socialist unified party with revered President Walter Ulbrich at its head, the German Democratic Republic has seen far-reaching changes. The humanism of scientific socialism has prevailed over the savagery of imperialism and fascism. Race discrimination, the German-master race policy, the rabid anti-communist policy have been done away with. Her people now and the close friends of all nations, and peace champions who are actively supporting the national liberation movements against US-led imperialism and resisting German revanchism.

The German Democratic Republic, assisted by the Soviet Union, has successfully licked her war-wounds, turning her economically poor and war-ravaged legacy into an advanced socialist economy. Now, she ranks among world highly-industrialised countries. The industrial outturn of the first 10 months in 1968 equals the all-German 1936 output. Her industrial products are not only for home consumption but also are in great demand all over the world, being exported to 52 countries, among them 17 highly industrialised capitalist countries. Her agriculture has also undergone important changes, particularly in the field of co-operation. Science and technique have helped forward agricultural production, modernised farming and increased labour productivity in cultivation and cattle-breeding. The mechanisation of agriculture, in some branches up to 94% of the implements, has steadily been improving the peasants' life.

The State has paid particular attention to training a socialist intelligentsia. As a result of the 10-year compulsory education, of the university-level professional complementary system and of the training of an army of professors and scientists, the German Democratic Republic now has at her disposal a vast number of intellectuals capable of meeting the needs of building up the country and of helping other newly-developed nations.

The cultural life of the people is a special preoccupation of the State which earmarks nearly 50,000,000 marks per year for its betterment. 559 museums, 97 theatres, over 1,000 palaces of culture, 107 theatres of workers and peasants' etc.., these figures speak volumes for the cultural activities of the German people under socialism.

Their living standard has greatly been improved as prices have been cut and national income increased. A five-day week has been put into effect and the working people have more time to learn and rest.

Simultaneously, her armed forces have been satisfactorily developed and strengthened: "up to date in equipment, steadfast in ideology", and are making contributions, together with other Warsaw treaty armies, to safeguarding the security of the whole socialist camp and peace in Europe and the world.

After 20 years of steady development, the German Democratic Republic has become a strong socialist country, a firm bulwark of peace in the West. An internationally-recognized nation, she entertains official diplomatic and commercial relations with, exchanges financial and technical assistance and services with, and provides aid to many countries.

The last 20 years have seen her uninterrupted superhuman efforts in opposing the imperialists and US-backed West German revanchists, in frustrating US-Bonn attempted economic blockades, diplomatic provocations, military sabotage, espionage and annexation activities. In spite of all that, the GDR has been advancing vigorously and steadily, towards a bright future, fulfilling the task of preserving peace in this area in Europe and the world.

FOR the struggle of the South Vietnamese people, she has reserved an unswerving support both political, spiritual and material, as the relations between the GRD Government and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are those of close comrades-in-arms in the common front against US imperialism.

The support has taken a great variety of forms: from meetings, statements, resolutions expressing militant solidarity with the South Vietnamese people, warm sympathy with the Front and Revolutionary Government lines and policies, condemnation of the US aggressive war in Viet Nam to recognition of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as the genuine, legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people, the establishment of diplomatic relations with it at ambassadorial level, moneyraising collection of medicines, and blood-donation etc... The support movement, which is unquestionably a wide-spread mass drive from towns to the country, from factories, collective farms, schools to hospitals, army and police units, from State and Party leaders down to the rank-and-file, including pensioners, old people and pioneers, has greatly inspired the South Vietnam people's anti-US struggle and cemented the militant solidarity between the two peoples.

On this jubilant occasion of the GDR national Day, the South Viet Nam people, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, deeply grateful for her most valuable support, extend to her people, Unified Socialist Party and Government their heartfelt thanks, warm greetings and best wishes.

Long and lithe is his angling line,
Live amidst seas of fragrant lotus,
Uncle does enjoy to, in communion with nature:
Ho, now in years, has no other pleasure.

The bamboo grove on far off Phu Quoc island
Is still longing for the mainland,
Blood of one heart, flesh of one body,
Blood and flesh will go back to where they belong.

The Pavement Artist

It was in late autumn 1960 in Saigon. A pampered menial of the French colonialists and of the Japanese fascists, Ngo Dinh Diem who had been brought back from the US and installed as "President" of South Viet Nam was commemorating his "6th year in office" and the full glare and noise of his propaganda machine was given to the event. One of the main plays was to have his picture displayed in every home, and millions of copies of it had been put on sale in newsstands which tried to draw customers with such slogans as "Pay for one and get two". However after a whole "National Day Week", heaps of Diem's effigies unsold littered the tables of the stalls.

In the meantime, in district X, an old pavement artist who had not been seen for years suddenly reappeared and pitched his wares under a tamarind tree. There were landscapes and still lifes galore in Chinese ink and on India paper. Two of them more particularly attracted public attention. In the first, on the water, in a pirogue, an old man with a prominent forehead and a wispy goatee is serenely angling. Under the painting there were four lines of verse:

Long and lithe is his angling line.
Live amidst seas of fragrant lotus,
Uncle does enjoy to, in communion with nature:
Ho, now in years, has no other pleasure.

The second pictured a tongue of land jutting out into the sea. A grove of lush coconut trees seems to bend forward and gazes at an island far off, where grows a group of bamboos. A short poem also serves as caption:

The bamboo grove on far off Phu Quoc island.
Is still longing for the mainland,
Blood of one heart, flesh of one body,
Blood and flesh will go back to where they belong.

The two paintings looked like two traditional scrolls. The artist tersely described them to his customers as two "landscapes". He drove a roaring trade with his works. The only queer thing about him was that he did not charge anything for those two "landscapes", which were in so great demand that he hardly had time to reproduce them, and people had to queue up for hours. Probably not because they could get them free, but because of their fine brushwork and captions which so aptly suited their frame of mind and of their appearance well-timed with the Diem "National Day Week."

Only two months later, did Diem's secret agents discover the cause of the popularity of the paintings, which were immediately seized and destroyed. But no one could seize and destroy the love for the old man with the broad forehead and wispy goatee in the heart of the people and the sidewalk painter.

As for the artist, he again disappeared in the same fashion as he had come back and his whereabouts were completely unknown. But the Saigonese will always remember him and his pieces of paintiting.

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